GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2478
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
PROTECTION OF INTERESTS OF PIOS
JASWANT SINGH YADAV;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Global Organisation of Persons of Indian Origin hasappealed to the Union Government to protect their interests at the international level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a),(b) & (c): The 6th Convention of the Global Organisation of Persons of IndianOrigin(GOPIO) was held in Delhi on 6th & 7th January,2001. A copy of the resolutions passed at the Convention is annexed. The resolutions have been passed on to the High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora which will make suitable recommendations to the Government.

ANNEXURE

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2478 for 14.3.2001.

Copy of the resolutions passed at the 6th Convention of GOPIO held in Delhi on 6th & 7th January,2001.

1. GOPIO condemns the overthrow of the democratically elected Government headed by Shri Mahendra Choudhary under the 1997 Constitution by a group of criminals. GOPIO reemphasizes the restorations of the duly elected government under the democratically framed constitution of 1997. GOPIO urges all international organizations and institutions to mobilize its resources to restore the democratically framed constitution of 1997.

2. GOPIO international appeals to the Government of Nepal to restore and maintain the century old peaceful and harmonious relations among PIOs and various other communities in Nepal.It deplores the recent violence in Nepal by some anti-social elements in December 2000 generated to create a rift between India and Nepal.GOPIO urges all concerned parties not to be misled by such malicious designs and to take strong steps to check them and to maintain the friendly relations among various communities of Nepal.

3. GOPIO observes that the issuance of the PIO card by the Government of India is an important measure for facilitating PIO`s involvement in India`s economy and PIO`s continued nurturing of their Indian Cultural Heritage.GOPIO urges Government of India to revise the fees for the PIO cards to US$ 100 instead of US$ 1000, and that their eligibility be not limited to four-(4) generations lienage.

4. GOPIO urges the Government of India to act soon to start the PIO University which it is pursuing since many years. GOPIO furthe notes that the PIO University will be an important Think-Tank Centre for the PIO Community.

5. GOPIO urges Government of India to treat PIO in Sri Lanka at par with other countries and to extend the facility of PIO card to them.

6. GOPIO reaffirms the need to increase the interactions of PIO Caribbean countries with Indialt urges all possible efforts by government of India and Mauritius to facilitate the establishment of direct flight from Caribbean countries to India.